towers were also to be used for television broadcasting services by the Doordarshan on co-location basis.

The foundation work was completed at Bijli Mahadev in Parvati Valley in May, 1997 whereas at Ahapuri the tower work was completed in August, 95 and the tower is being utilized by BSNL and Doordarshan.

The tower erection work at Bijli Mahadev was postponed due to change in plan for connecting Manikaran Telephone Exchange on Aerial Optical Fibre cable instead of Digital Microwave. The tower erection shall now be carried out during 2002-03 for operation of Wireless in Local Loop and Cellular Mobile Services planned by BSNL in that area.

Underworld Dons

*246. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UAE Government is not co-operating in dealing with the Indian underworld dons who have made Dubai their base for so many years;

(b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Extradition Treaty as well as a Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement for Cooperation in Criminal Matters were earlier signed and finally ratified by both countries on May 29, 2000. These two agreements provide a basic framework for dealing with trans-national crime and criminals. Both countries are committed to abiding by these agreements.

Indo-Russian Joint Venture

*247. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia are launching a number of joint ventures for manufacturing telecom equipments and optic fibres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work on the projects is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PoW lodged in Kot Lakhpat Jail

*248. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (Durru): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused to accept 51 PoW, lodged in Kot Lakhpat Jail in Pakistan, 32 of whom have been declared as internees after completing their jail terms awarded by various Pakistani courts;

(b) if so, whether Government have also refused to accept ashes of 21 cremated Indian Prisoners of War lying in the Kot Lakhpat Jail; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Pakistan has not acknowledged the presence of any Indian PoW in its custody.

Handing over of NH-52 to BRO

*249. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to hand over National Highway-52 to the Border Roads Organisation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, the date of decision and actual execution;

(c) the details of the outstanding liabilities to the contractors and the category-wise strength and probable fate of the employees in the light of the said decision, working under Assam PWD for National Highway-52;

(d) the details of the improvement and repair plan, including target set for conversion into four lane; and